REMARKS

Applicants have attached an abstract on a separate sheet of paper as required by US practice. Applicants have amended the specification for purposes of adding the priority information. Claims 31, 32, 33, and 37 have been cancelled. Claims 14, 20, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 34 have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies and new claims 38-55 have been added instead in accordance with U.S. practice. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is ready for examination on the merits. An early consideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Prus

Karen L. Prus
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 39,337

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GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
Corporate Intellectual Property
Five Moore Drive, P.O. Box 13398
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Phone: 919-483-2192
Facsimile: 919-483-7988

Copy of the Claims with Markings to Show Changes Made

14. (Amended) A compound according to [any of claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, or 12] claim 6 wherein X is O.

20. (Amended) A compound according to [any of claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 17, 18, or 1] claim 4 wherein

R^1 is phenyl which is substituted in the *meta* position with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, $-CF_3$, C_{1-8}alkyl, C_{1-8}alkylamino, alkoxy, C_{3-6}cycloalkylC_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{6-14}arylC_{2-6}alkenyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, $-NH_2$, $-SR^6$, $-S(O)_2R^6$, $-S(O)R^7$, $-S(O)_2R^7$, $-C(O)R^7$, C_{2-6}alkenyl which may be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, halogen, aryl, and heterocycle, and C_{2-6}alkynyl which may be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, halogen, aryl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and heterocycle;

R^2 is hydrogen;

R^3 is hydrogen;

R^4 is phenyl substituted in the *ortho* position with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, halogen, $-CF_3$, or C_{1-8}alkyl and substituted at the *para* position with a substituent selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, halogen, $-CF_3$, C_{1-8}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-8}alkyl, -CN, $-NO_2$, C_{1-8}alkylamino, heterocycleC_{1-8}alkyl, $-C(O)NH_2$, $-S(O)R^7$, $-S(O)_2R^7$, $-C(O)R^7$, $-NS(O)_2R^7$, $-S(O)_2NR^8R^9$, $-S(O)_2NHR^{11}$, $-SO_2R^{11}$, $-OR^{11}$, $-C(O)R^{11}$, $-C(O)NR^{11}$, $-C(O)OR^{11}$, $-NR^{11}$, $-NC(O)R^{11}$, heterocycleC_{2-6}alkenyl, heterocycle which may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo, C_{1-8}alkyl, and $C(O)OR^{11}$, and C_{1-8}alkyl which may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of -CN and heterocycle, optionally substituted with $-C(O)R^{11}$;

R^5 is a substituent in the *para* position relative to X and is selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-8}alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-NH_2$, C_{1-8}alkylamino, CF_3, or alkoxy;

R^{11} is C_{1-8}alkyl, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-8}alkyl, $-S(O)_2NR^8R^9$, $-NR^8R^9$, and heterocycle, optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of oxo and C_{1-8}alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

26. (Amended) A compound according to [any of claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 17, 18, or 19] claim 4 wherein R^1 is C_{6-14} aryl substituted in the meta position, particularly with halogen and wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is C_{6-14}aryl substituted with C_{1-8}alkyl, in particular methyl.

27. (Amended) A method of treatment of a viral infection in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an antivirally effective amount of a compound according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 2.

29. (Amended) A method of inhibiting HIV reverse transcrptase comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a compound according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 2.

30. (Amended) A method of preventing HIV infection, or of treating HIV infection, comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a compound according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 2.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to [any of claims 1 to 26] claim 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

37. (Cancelled).